



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**Black Hills
National
Forest**

**Hell Canyon Ranger District
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Custer, SD 57730 Newcastle, WY 82701
605-673-4853 307-746-2782**

This letter is to inform you that Pacer Corporation, a mining company producing feldspar and mica in the Black Hills for 32 years, has submitted a plan to build a mica processing plant on National Forest System Land. The proposed mica processing plant will be located on unpatented mining claims immediately adjacent to Pacer Corporation's existing mica mine. This mica processing plant will replace the existing plant that is currently located in Custer, South Dakota. As part of the scoping requirements the Hell Canyon Ranger District would like to request your comments on the proposed action.

The mica mine is located in the SW ¼, Section 28, Township 2 South, Range 3 East and is accessed from Highway 385 through private land. The location of the proposed mica processing plant is immediately adjacent to the mine on Forest System Land. The processing plant will be a structural steel building on a reinforced concrete slab of approximately 35,000 square feet in size with a roofline height of approximately 35 feet. It is in this building that the mica-rich rock extracted from the mine will be processed using a dry grinding technology that uses no water or chemicals. A warehouse/packaging building approximately 15,000 square feet in size and identical in design and appearance to the processing building is also proposed. It is in this building that the processed mica material will be packaged and stored for final distribution.

Other facilities that will be developed include paved parking and unloading/loading areas, settling ponds to collect storm water runoff, a certified truck scale, a domestic water well, and a septic system. The total area required to develop all of the proposed facilities is approximately 2.5 acres in size. A 24.9/14.4 kv overhead power line will be required to support the mill operation. The proposed connection will come from the existing line located to the east. The facility will operate for the life of the mine, which is anticipated to be at least 50 years in duration. A financial surety or bond will be held by either the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service or the State of South Dakota to ensure reclamation of the site. Upon the cessation of mining activities the mica processing plant will be removed and the disturbed land reclaimed as identified in the final reclamation plan.

In order to evaluate your comments or concerns we will need a response no later than November 4, 2002. If you have any questions concerning the proposed action, please feel free to contact Lynn Oliver, the Hell Canyon Ranger District Mineral Specialist, at 605-673-4853. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter, and we look forward to receiving your comments.

